NewVision ZipShell

Overview

NewVision ZipShell is a program written for the Microsoft Windows environment that acts as a command center for PKWARE's PKZIP and PKUNZIP programs. It allows the user to perform many of their compression and decompression functions without having to decipher or learn their complex command-line arguments. ZipShell is *not* a free program; rather, it is Shareware. After evaluating ZipShell for 21 days, you are obligated to either register it or discontinue using it. See the "Registration" section later in this document for more details.

ZIPSHELL.EXE was written using Microsoft Visual Basic, and thus requires the Visual Basic Dynamic Link Library (VBRUN100.DLL) to run. It is available free of charge on CompuServe and most local BBS's. ZIPREAD.DLL, a support file required to run ZipShell, was written using Borland's Turbo Pascal for Windows.

You are encouraged to distribute ZipShell to friends and BBS's, as long as you include all its documentation and support files in their original, unmodified state.

System Requirements

To run ZipShell, your system must meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:
* IBM 286 or compatible (386 or higher recommended)
* Microsoft Windows 3.0 or later, running in Standard Mode or 386 Enhanced Mode
* The file VBRUN100.DLL (free from Microsoft)
* About 310K free hard disk space (not including the 271K required for VBRUN100.DLL)
* The programs PKZIP.EXE and PKUNZIP.EXE, available from PKWARE, Inc. (more on this later)

ZipShell is an "ini-friendly" program: it makes no changes or additions to your WIN.INI or SYSTEM.INI files, but creates its own file (ZIPSHELL.INI), which resides in your Windows directory.

To use ZipShell, you must have copies of PKUNZIP.EXE and PKZIP.EXE, two DOS-based data compression programs distributed by PKWARE, Inc., somewhere on your PATH. ZipShell checks for the presence of these before performing any operations requiring them, and will refuse to continue if they are not present. These programs are Shareware and are available on most BBS's. For information on registering them, refer to their documentation.

Installation

Use the included setup program! (The setup program, SETUP.EXE, is also a Visual Basic program and so requires VBRUN100.DLL to reside somewhere on your system's PATH.) Alternatively, copy ZIP001.PIF and ZIP002.PIF into your \WINDOWS directory, and the following files into your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory: ZIPREAD.DLL, SS3D.VBX, SS3D2.VBX, CMDIALOG.VBX. Finally, place the remaining files (ZIPSHELL.EXE, ZIPSHELL.HLP, ZIPSHELL.WRI, ZSORDER.TXT) into their own separate subdirectory. Then you're ready to go!

The first time ZipShell is run, it will perform a quick initialization. It will check to see if you have a directory assigned to the TEMP environment variable. (You have one if there is a line in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file which looks something like set TEMP=c:\ windows\temp, or some other subdirectory.) Many programs store temporary files in this directory, if present. When viewing a file from a ZIPFile, ZipShell unzips it to the TEMP directory, reads it, then deletes it. If a TEMP directory is not found, ZipShell will give you the option of creating one.

Quick Start
For detailed instructions on the use of ZipShell, please use the on-line help file provided (ZIPSHELL.HLP), which is accessible from everywhere in the program.

To perform many of its operations, ZipShell will launch PKZIP or PKUNZIP, which will require it to shell to DOS. The method in which it does this depends on the mode you are running Windows in. If you are running Windows in Standard Mode, the DOS shell will completely fill the screen. When PKZIP or PKUNZIP has finished, the Windows screen will be restored. If you are running Windows in 386 Enhanced Mode, the DOS shell will occupy a minimized window at the bottom of the screen. If you wish to see the progress of the zip operation, double-click on the DOS icon, and the window will be restored. (If you are unsure which mode your computer is running in, pull down the "About" box. The current Windows mode is displayed near the bottom of the screen.)

If you run Windows in 386 Enhanced Mode, and you perform a lengthy zip operation, you may work with some other program while PKZIP or PKUNZIP runs in the background. Do not, however, work with ZipShell itself. If you perform operations with ZipShell (such as opening another ZIPFile) while it is performing a zip operation in the background, you will most likely cause a fatal error to occur. Wait until the DOS window has been closed before you continue working with ZipShell.

One feature of ZipShell which is not immediately obvious is its support of Windows 3.1 File Manager's drag and drop operation. You may add files to any ZIPFile by first opening it, and then dragging and dropping files from the File Manager onto ZipShell (or its icon if it's minimized). You will be asked to confirm the addition, and if you do, ZipShell will promptly add them.

Other than this, ZipShell uses a standard interface and is fairly straightforward. Refer to the help file for more information.

Software License

ZipShell is not public domain software, nor is it free. Non-licensed users are granted a 21-day period during which they may use ZipShell on a trial basis, to see if it is suitable for their needs. After the 21-day trial period, users are required to register the program or discontinue using it.

Licensed users may use ZipShell only on a single computer. It may be used on more than one computer, as long as there is no chance of it being used on different computers at the same time.

Licensed users of ZipShell may not rent or lease the program, but may transfer the program, with all accompanying materials, on a permanent basis provided that they retain no copy of the program, and the recipient agrees to all terms of the Software License. ZipShell is protected by Copyright laws of the United States and must be treated like any other copyrighted material. Under no circumstances may anyone disassemble, decompile, or reverse engineer the program.

Registration / Customer Support

The single-license registration fee for ZipShell is $25.00. In return you will receive a diskette containing the latest version of ZipShell (without the nag screen!) and accompanying documentation files, along with a unique registration number. Additionally, your name will be displayed in the "About" box as the registered user. Registering ZipShell enables us to continue to develop high-quality, inexpensive software for you to use, so please support the Shareware concept and register this program if you find it of use!

Commercial site licenses are also available. Please refer to ZSORDER.TXT for rates.

To order, please fill out the accompanying order form (ZSORDER.TXT), and send to:

> NewVision
> 800 5th Ave #382
> Seattle, WA 98104

Additionally, if you have any questions, problems, comments, or suggestions regarding ZipShell, contact us at the above address, or on CompuServe at 76020,732. All comments and suggestions are appreciated and welcome. If you send us an original idea which we later incorporate into ZipShell, we will send you a free, registered copy of that version!

Future Enhancements

Future versions of ZipShell will include support for more of PKZIP and PKUNZIP's abilities, including testing ZIPFiles, fixing damaged ZIPFiles, using ZIPFile comments, password protection, and making self-extracting archives. Future versions will also likely provide support for more file formats, possibly including ARJ, ARC, and/or LHA. If there is a feature you would like to see in a future version of ZipShell, please write us

and tell us. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the program!